

132 *THE CASTAWAYS OF*
THE FLAG

had not some means of egress beyond
the mass of
rock ?

But just as he reached the far end of
the long
passage, Fritz felt a fresher breath of
air, and at
the same moment his ear detected a
continual
whistling sound.

"Wind!" he muttered. "That's
wind !»

He put his face near the wall, and his
hand found
several fissures in it.

" Wind 1" he said again. " It certainly
is wind 1
It gets in here when it blows from the
north. So
there is a passage, either on the side
or at the top
of the cliff ! But then, on this side, it
would mean
that there is a communication with the
northern
flank of the cliff ! "

Just at that moment the candle
which Fritz
was passing along the wall went out
suddenly, in a
stronger draught blowing through one of
the fissures.

Fritz did not wait for anything more.
He was
convinced. If one got through this wall
one would
have free access to the outside 1

To crawl back to the cave where all
were waiting
for him, to tell them of his discovery, to
take them
back again with him, and make sure
that he was
right, was only the work of minutes.
In a few minutes more Fritz,- followed by

Captain

Gould, John Block, Frank, and James,
went from
the first cave into the second. They
lighted their
by candles which^ on this occasion,
they were